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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Atsushi Tanno
Serial No.: 10/523,789
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For: TIRE WHEEL
Art Unit: 3617
Examiner: Bellinger, Jason R.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

25 Jan 08

Date

Registration No. 29,367

Attorney for Applicant(s)

DECLARATION OF ATSUSHI TANNO

I, Atsushi TANNO, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the named inventor of the above-referenced patent application.
2. I am a citizen of Japan, residing at c/o The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., Hiratsuka Factory, 2-1, Oiwake, Hiratsuka-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan.
3. In March 1997, I graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Engineering, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan.
4. Since April 1997, I have been employed by The Yokohama Rubber Co. . Ltd., a Japanese corporation, of 36-11, Shimbashi 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, the Assignee of record in the above-identified subject application.

5. In the above-named corporation, I have been engaged in research and development mainly in the field of tire designs up to present.

6. I supervised the tests that produced the results in Table 1 of the present application. The wheels identified as Present Invention Wheels 1, 2, 3, and 4 were made in accordance with and were covered by the pending claims of the present application.

7. The test method for evaluation of road noise was as described in the specification of the present application. The evaluations were made using the following 5-point rating system for measuring road noise.

8. The Prior Art Wheel 1 was taken as a reference wheel and its road noise was evaluated at 3 points.

9. Each of the test wheels except for the prior art wheel 1 was evaluated through feeling tests by car indoor noise special professional panelists, and evaluation results were rated at each 0.1 point. Evaluations were made relative to the prior art wheel 1.

10. "3.5 points" represented a noise level at which even ordinary people could clearly feel that the indoor noise was improved.

11. "4 points" represented a noise level at which even ordinary people could clearly feel that the indoor noise was markedly improved.

12. "2.5 points" represented a noise level at which even ordinary people could

clearly feel that the indoor noise deteriorated.

13. "1 point" represented a noise level at which the indoor noise was so large as to impart discomfort and a tire of such a high noise level that the tire could not be put to use.

14. "5 points" represented a noise level at which no problem was found with the indoor noise.

15. The test results establish that the present invention significantly reduced road noise. Noise reduction by varying the thickness of portions of the rim in the manner of the present invention was an unexpected result.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed On: January 11, 2008

Signature: Atsushi Tanno